



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACILITY AT BENDIX MANUFACTURING OPERATION IN ACUÑA, MEXICO,
CERTIFIED AS A SAFE AND HEALTHY WORK ENVIRONMENT BY
MEXICAN SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE

Certification Underscores Long-Standing Support for Employees' Health, Safety, and Well-Being; in Related Accomplishment, Acuña Campus Achieves 365 Days Without an Injury

AVON, Ohio – Nov. 27, 2023 – One of three state-of-the-art manufacturing plants on the Acuña, Mexico, campus of Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) was recently certified as a Safe and Healthy Work Environment by the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS). The certification for Plant 3 recognizes the facility's support for the health, safety, and well-being of its employees. The Acuña campus, which also includes a logistics center, is celebrating another safety-related accomplishment as well: In July, the operation reached the milestone of 365 days without a recordable injury. Since then, the campus has continued to remain injury-free.

"We're proud of both accomplishments and how they reflect the wellness and safety culture we've built in Acuña," said Jacqueline Perez, Bendix managing director, Mexico operations. "That culture starts with Bendix's leadership, which truly values employees and invests in them, and carries on through our team members, who strive to bring their best self to the job each day."

IMSS launched the Safe and Healthy Work Environments Program (ELSSA) in May 2022. Mexican companies voluntarily sign on to the countrywide program, which is designed to protect the health of employees by helping to prevent occupational injuries, as well as diseases

such as diabetes, obesity, and hypertension. ELSSA evaluates participating employers throughout the program and institutes a rigorous certification process.

Framework for Safety and Wellness

The ELSSA platform identifies lines of action as part of its strategy and makes support material available to employers. Action lines include implementing machine guarding to help ensure the safety of machine operators and other employees; addressing ergonomic factors, such as noise and light levels; preventing work-related illnesses; and reducing psychosocial risks, such as stress.

“This is a program where companies voluntarily implement health strategies and actions to help improve employees’ safety and wellness,” said Saidi Zorrilla, lead, Safety and Health, at Bendix Acuña. “The objective is to transform the working environment by offering training activities and employing preventive strategies.”

Plant 3 joined the ELSSA program in June 2022 and worked toward certification, which requires a compliance score above 90%. Certification, which the facility achieved in September 2023, is valid for one year, at which time another audit will take place to verify that the facility continues to implement the program.

“As part of ELSSA, we have created a quarterly wellness campaign,” Zorrilla said. “We focus on a different health topic each quarter, from diabetes and hypertension to cancer. Doctors and nurses, with all the necessary resources, are on-site at Acuña’s facilities for a day-long effort covering both shifts so that services are available for all team members.”

With Plant 3 certified, the Acuña campus’ other two plants and its logistics center are progressing toward ELSSA certification as well, having completed 70% of the requirements to date.

“Our Acuña operation is well positioned to earn ELSSA certification because, historically, we’ve been engaged in wellness and safety activities as core elements of our culture,” said Maria Gutierrez, Bendix senior director, environmental, social, and governance (ESG). “Resources include occupational health doctors and nurses on staff. And for many years, we’ve been intentional about training programs and assessments around factors that impact health and safety. We deliver this, in part, under the umbrella of our Bendix Be Healthy program aimed at healthy living and healthy lifestyles today, tomorrow, and into retirement for our employees and their families. ELSSA certification is the culmination of everything we’ve been building.”

Safety Milestone

The Bendix Acuña focus on wellness and safety has contributed to another achievement for the campus: the safety performance milestone of 365 days without a recordable injury, reached in July. A recordable injury or accident in the workplace is one that requires medical attention beyond first aid. The campus hosted a celebration to recognize and congratulate team members for their commitment to safety every day.

The Acuña operation, like Bendix manufacturing campuses and other operations across North America, incorporates the company's comprehensive safety agenda, at the core of which are a strong commitment by leadership, mature safety processes, and a goal of zero injuries.

Among the preventive and corrective safety activities incorporated at Acuña are weekly safety audits and the emergency work order (EWO) program. All employees can institute an EWO, the highest-priority work order, to identify any unsafe condition. EWOs are in keeping with Bendix's emphasis on encouraging employees to report unsafe conditions and behaviors – and safe behaviors, as well. Employees are also urged to submit ideas (Quick Kaizens) for safety improvements.

Another key program is the Safety Share reminder at the start of all meetings. The Safety Share includes instructions in the event of an emergency, as well as a personal safety tip – applicable for home or work – from a meeting participant.

"We take seriously the safety of our workers, which includes treating all workplace incidents with the highest care," Zorrilla said. "With every incident – even if it's minor or a near-miss – we complete an investigation as if it could be a recordable incident. All incidents deserve the same high-priority attention."

She continued, "We also have a daily 'safety flash,' which communicates the particulars of any incident in one location to all the locations on campus, so that team members can learn from them and help prevent a similar incident from happening at their site. When there are no incidents to report, we put a safety, environmental, or health topic into the flash."

Bendix sees overlap between the ELSSA certification and the injury-free safety performance at the Acuña operation.

"The certification is indicative of the company's long-standing commitment to employee health and safety," Gutierrez said. "Diseases that are chronic and degenerative can impact an employee's performance and safety at work. We believe you must take care of the whole person to help them perform safely on the job. By 'whole person,' we mean physically but also mentally – the stress to their minds and bodies and how the work environment can affect that."

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The 412,000-square-foot Acuña campus, which opened in 1988 and employs approximately 1,800 people, engages in manufacturing, remanufacturing, and assembly across a wide range of products – antilock braking systems (ABS), air dryers, compressors, valves, actuators, and integrated vehicle modules. Ongoing expansion of the bustling operation includes construction of a new production facility to produce two emerging, next-generation technologies: Global Scalable Brake Control (GSBC) and Global Scalable Air Treatment (GSAT). Initial occupancy of the facility, which will use highly automated manufacturing processes, is slated for November 2023.

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 4,400 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit [bendix.com](https://www.bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](https://www.knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on X, formerly known as Twitter, at twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at [brake-school.com](https://www.brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit [bendix.com/careers](https://www.bendix.com/careers).

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